

THE MINNESOTA PROJECT

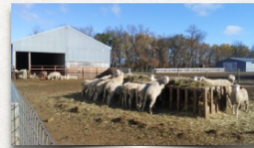
OPP Eradication Trial
Fall 2013 — Fall 2017



Rob Goerger — Jct. 75 & 212 Ovine Ranch
Madison, Minnesota

COMMERCIAL FLOCK — 400 WHITEFACE EWES

- Whiteface replacements home bred: Dorset; Finn x Dorset; Finn x Polypay
- Rams purchased: both maternal (Polypay) (Finn x Dorset) and terminal sires
- Carefully selected over 20 years; 200% lamb crop now typical
- Accelerated flock is enrolled in the Pipestone Management Program
- Groups lamb in January/February, March, May and October
- Replacement ewe lambs selected from those born in Winter and Fall
- Various barns; ewe flock pastured in season
- Replacement ewe lambs raised in dry lots; market lambs in confinement



Rob Goerger - Jct 75 & 212 Ovine Ranch - December 2017

OPP SYMPTOMS AND INITIAL TEST RESULTS

OBSERVED OPP SYMPTOMS:

- Hard udder; both sides uniformly firm
- Little or no milk; some ewes could not raise twins
- Weight loss despite good appetite

BEGINNING TEST STATUS OF THE EWE FLOCK:

- No testing done prior to the Trial
- Adult ewes 42% OPP positive on partial-flock test
- Large group of purchased ewes 64% positive

BEGINNING TEST STATUS OF RAMS:

- All 8 rams were genetically less-susceptible, and also test-neg
—one turned pos at 4 years following exposure to test-pos ewes —

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OUR REPORT FOR 2017 LAMBING GROUPS

JAN-FEB (OPP-negative ewes): our first 200% crop for this time of year

- All ewes had soft udders and lots of milk; cull rate cut in half
- Lamb death loss birth to market lowest we've ever had
- Weaning weight average in the 50# range; all whiteface lambs

APRIL (OPP-positive ewes): our biggest lamb crop ever at 233%

- Many ewes not able to feed a 2nd lamb, much less a 3rd; large cull rate
- 50% increase in lamb death loss birth to market compared to neg ewes
- Avg weaning weight 4# lower than from neg ewes; terminal-sired lambs

MAY (OPP-positive ewes): the usual 200% lamb crop

- The usual lack of colostrum, plus an even larger cull rate
- 100% increase in death loss birth to market compared to neg ewes
- Avg weaning weight 7# lower than from neg ewes; terminal-sired lambs

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PRODUCTION OF OPP-POS VS. NEG EWES

ALL 4 EWES BORN IN 2013 — POLYPAY SIRE — OUT OF FINN X DORSET DAMS

OPP test-negative Ewes

RED 384- (lbs weaned/year)

- JAN 2017 — 3 — 87# **Avg**
- MAY 2016 — 3 — 101# **94#**
- SEPT 2015 — 1 — 69#
- JAN 2015 — 2 — 108# **Avg**
- MAR 2014 — 2 — 42# **73#**

RED 389- (lbs weaned/year)

- JAN 2017 — 2 — 94# **Avg**
- MAY 2016 — 2 — 119# **107#**
- OCT 2015 — 1 — 55#
- JAN 2015 — 2 — 106# **Avg**
- MAR 2014 — 2 — 86# **82#**

Avg lbs weaned = 87#
(per ewe/per year)

OPP test-positive Ewes

RED 362+ (lbs weaned/year)

- MAY 2017 — 3 — 76# **Avg**
- SEPT 2016 — 2 — 65# **71#**
- JAN 2016 — 2 — 111#
- MAR 2015 — 1 — 74# **Avg**
- MAR 2014 — 2 — 55# **80#**

RED 398+ (lbs weaned/year)

- APR 2017 — 3 — 83# **Avg**
- JAN 2016 — 2 — 64# **74#**
- MAR 2015 — 2 — 96# **Avg**
- MAR 2014 — 2 — 33# **65#**

Avg lbs weaned = 73#
(per ewe/per year)

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HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO ERADICATE OPP?

— YOUR MILEAGE MAY VARY —

Eradication costs — for OUR FLOCK — WITHOUT the \$\$\$ ADVANTAGE of the Trial — and **IF WE HAD COLLECTED THE BLOOD SAMPLES OURSELVES**

Based on:

- supplies at \$1 per test +
- VDL accession fee of \$10 per lot submitted +
- **\$6 per test (does not include veterinarian fee to collect samples)**

400 ewes (64% infected at start; all positives will be gone by mid-2018)

Cost to-date would have been \$11,634 = \$29 per ewe

— This is a one-time cost per test-negative ewe —

What do you pay for each bag of milk replacer?

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FALL-LAMBED EWES AT BUNK EATING CORN

LAMBS IN THIS PEN 2-3 WEEKS OLD — NOTICE THEM NOT SNITCHING FOR MILK



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LAST REMAINING GROUP OF OPP POSITIVES

WILL BE CULLED AFTER WEANING THEIR 2018 LAMBS

— NOT AT ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO LAMBING THIS GROUP —



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